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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 7-18, and 22 are allowed. A marked-up version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-6 of this Reply. Claim 23 has been cancelled herein.

Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 7-18, and 22 are allowed.

It is noted that the applicants' undersigned representative respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's basis for rejecting claim 23, and that applicants intend to pursue such claim in a continuation application.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer in view of Peterson *et al.*, further in view of Erhardt *et al.*, further in view of Ebersole (U.S. 5,324,620), and further in view of Orth (U.S. 5,750,317). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claim 23 has been cancelled herein in order to advance the present application toward allowance.

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CONCLUSION

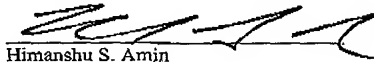
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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